



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SD AIR GUARD HAS NEW ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

Brigadier General Matthew P. Jamison is the new assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Air National Guard. A change of authority ceremony took place Saturday, May 4, at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls between Jamison and the outgoing assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Wayne M. Shanks. As the assistant adjutant general, Jamison is now responsible to the South Dakota National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, for strategic planning, strength management, Airmen readiness and mobilization support of the state's nearly 1,100 Air National Guard members.

Jamison, of Sioux Falls, replaces Shanks, who served in the position since April of 2010. Shanks, a Sioux Falls native and current resident of rural Colton, will retire from the Guard after nearly 39 years of service to the state and nation.

"Brigadier General Jamison has clearly demonstrated the potential to serve in this very important position. I am confident he will add to the legacy of great leadership the South Dakota Air National Guard has been blessed with since its inception in 1946," said Maj. Gen. Reisch. "Brigadier General Shanks has performed brilliantly throughout his career, which has spanned almost 39 years. I wish him the very best as he enters retirement."

"I am excited and looking forward to the challenge of this position," said Jamison. "The Air Guard will continue to excel at our federal and state missions by doing well on inspections, deployments and being ready when the governor needs us for state emergencies." "General Shanks leaves behind a great legacy. His knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed."

"It's been an honor to be a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard, but most of all, I cherish the years I've had to work with our exceptional military men and women that sacrifice every day for this great country," said Shanks.



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SDNG MUSEUM TO HOST MUSEUM LEADERS

The South Dakota National Guard Museum will be hosting the Association of South Dakota Museums, Inc. annual meeting May 31-June 1. Originally, this meeting was scheduled for April 12-13, but due to weather conditions it was rescheduled. This two-day meeting will focus on traveling exhibits, social media, bringing history to life, making exhibits stand out, inventory and deaccession.

Sonja Johnson, director of the SDNG Museum said she is excited to host this meeting because she gets to showcase her museum with her peers.

Dedicated to preserving, interpreting and disseminating the unique and ever-changing cultural heritage within the state of South Dakota, the Association of South Dakota Museums (ASDM) is an organization of museums and friends in service to the museum community in South Dakota.

The Museum will also host part II of the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI) disaster preparedness planning and response training workshop August 14. This workshop is a hands-on training that will put into practice the information learned in part I of the DCCI training.

Johnson has participated in the State of South Dakota's Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) program and believes this training will ensure that the museum is prepared and has a plan of operation during a disaster.

Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI) is a partnership between collections care professionals at museums, libraries and archives in North and South Dakota to improve collections care and emergency preparedness and response for small and mid-sized collecting heritage institutions across the two states.

SD SOLDIERS TRAIN SURINAME SPECIAL FORCES

Three South Dakota National Guard Soldiers traveled to the Republic of Suriname April 16 – 18 to provide refresher and instructor training on the Harris radio system to Surinamese Special Forces soldiers.

This is the third subject matter expert exchange between the SDNG and the Suriname military that focused on modernizing and expanding communications capabilities. The first two exchanges consisted of an assessment of the Surinamese communications capabilities and limitations, presenting that assessment and formulating a plan to enhance their communications.



The South Dakota and Suriname partnership was formally established in August of 2006. Since then, numerous exchanges have taken place where South Dakota service members travel to Suriname and vice versa to complete in various military training. This exchange provided more detailed information on the range and capabilities of the Harris radios and included a field training exercise that allowed the Suriname soldiers to employ the radio in the inland regions of the country, where reception and interference can become an issue.

ABERDEEN HONORS VIETNAM VETERANS

Residents of Aberdeen and Brown County gathered in Anderson Park in Aberdeen April 27th to honor Vietnam Veterans.

Brown County KIAs and Gold Star families were recognized. Surviving Gold Star Mothers were presented with yellow balloons. Ric Dias, Ph. D. at Northern State University was the keynote speaker.

The Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter #1054) served as hosts for this event.



BUFFALO RIDGE TRAINING ACADEMY

The Buffalo Ridge Training Academy (BRTA), located in Gary, SD, is offering training opportunities for youth aging out of foster care and young veterans, primarily between the ages of 18-25. Their goal is to transition participants to long-term career development within industries needed in this region. Based on research of employment needs in South Dakota, BRTA has designed training programs in commercial truck driving, hotel/resort management, welding and wind energy maintenance.

Soft skills training (professionalism, teamwork, communication, problem solving, attitude, networking, health & wellness, and managing finances) are also provided for all students.

For more information about the program, please contact Erin Case, LCSW-Program Director Phone: 605-272-3800/Cell: 619-840-5302, or email Erin at: ecase@newalternatives.org and academy@buffaloridgeresort.com

This program provides great opportunities to change the lives of some young veteran and give them a career to grow and stay in the great state of South Dakota.

This training program includes free tuition, room and board and is underwritten by New Alternatives.



DAV HOLDS STATE CONVENTION

The SD Disabled American Veterans (DAV) held their annual convention in Deadwood last weekend.

Secretary Zimmerman participated in a Q&A panel that focused on legislative issues and VA healthcare. Panel participants included staff from Senators Johnson and Thune and Representative Noem's offices, Patrick Kelly (SFVAHCS Director), Stephen DiStasio (VABHHCS Director), and Jim Brubaker (Dakotas Regional Office Director).

Larry Wilcox, director of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home participated in a panel with representatives from the Vets Centers, Black Hills Cemetery and the DAV. Each of the participants briefed attendees on the services they provide.

Vietnam Era Veterans were recognized, thanked and presented with hats and coins from the DAV.

New DAV Department of South Dakota Commander is Helen Parr of Sioux Falls who is the first female veteran within the state to achieve Department of South Dakota Commander. Parr replaces Harold Muilenburg of Belle Fourche, Immediate Past Commander. Commander Parr is a member of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1 in Sioux Falls, and has been a Life Member of the DAV for 25 years. She is a disabled veteran of the U.S. Army who received her honorable discharge in 1969 from WAC Co (WQ3EU-A) WBGH, El Paso, TX with the rank of SP4 E4.

Other officers elected are: Sr. Vice Commander—Greg Carter of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3; 1st Jr. Vice Commander—Ritch Wilson of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1; 2nd Jr. Vice Commander—Rodney Parks of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3; Treasurer—Ken Laughlin of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter

No. 1; Judge Advocate/Inspector—Larry W. Bouska of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1; Trustees (2 year term) - Don Bren of DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and Bob Hill of DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22.



HENDERSON NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Heather Henderson has been awarded "Employee of the Month" at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Office. Heather is a veterans service officer and has been with the Department since 2009.

Heather is an E6 with the South Dakota Air National Guard and is currently assigned as a unit training manager. Henderson has deployed three times—twice to Southwest Asia and once to Europe.



GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS MAY AS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed a proclamation declaring May as National Military Appreciation Month.

May is a time to recognize the sacrifices and successes of those who have served in the Armed Forces, both past and present. "The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of freedom, security and prosperity enjoyed by the people of this great nation," the Governor's proclamation states. "The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members and their families."

National Military Appreciation Month includes: Loyalty Day (5/1), Victory in Europe Day (5/8), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (5/11), Armed Forces Day (5/18), and Memorial Day (5/27). Each of those days provides an opportunity to learn more about military members and the families that support them.

"This month is dedicated to all of our military men and women and their families, and it also provides an opportunity to educate our youth on the historical importance of the Armed Forces," said Maj. Gen. General Timothy Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military and Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard. "Our veterans and their families have contributed so much to protect the freedoms we all enjoy."



STATE VETERANS HOME MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The annual Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home Memorial Day program will be held on Monday, May 27, 2013, at 9:00 am (MT). The ceremony will be held on the front lawn of the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs (2500 Minnekahta Avenue).

Lt. Governor Matt Michels will be the keynote speaker.



SD ELKS ASSOCIATION DONATE MONIES TO FUND FLAGS AT MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENTS

The South Dakota Elks Association has a long history of supporting veterans, military personnel and their families. Jeff Hallem, past exalted ruler of Pierre Elks Lodge #1953, on behalf of the South Dakota Elks Association, presented Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs with a check for \$600 for the Medal of Honor Monument flag fund.

"The South Dakota Elks Association has been providing South Dakota, United States of America, and POW flags for the Medal of Honor Monuments since 2002," said Hallem. "This is just one of many programs that are designed to keep true to the Elks pledge: 'So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.'"

"The Department is honored to assist the Elks with this project," said Deputy Secretary Harding. "We are thankful for the Elks continued support of these monuments and appreciate the communities of Sisseton, Sturgis, Sioux Falls, Brookings, Spearfish, Toronto, Custer, and Hot Springs for their work in preserving these monuments."

South Dakota's Medal of Honor Recipients and their bios can be found at: http://mva.sd.gov/medals_of_honor.html.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government. It is bestowed on a member of the United States armed forces who distinguishes themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States. Because of the nature of its criteria, the medal is often awarded posthumously.



SD NATIONAL GUARD RECEIVES CHAMBER BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

The South Dakota National Guard received the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award for the month of May during a ceremony Tuesday, May 7, at Camp Rapid for their new Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center.

The Beautification Award is given to businesses, organizations and community groups that improve the physical beauty or quality of life of the city and surrounding community.

Construction on the Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center was completed during the summer of 2011 and officially dedicated in October of the same year. The new \$37.8 million, 170,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will not only enhance training and readiness for National Guard forces for years to come, but is also enhancing the landscape of the Rapid City community.

"We present this award to the South Dakota National Guard for its new Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center and for improving the beauty of our city with this impressive looking building," said Brian Munsell, Rapid City Chamber of Commerce ambassador chair.

In addition to enhancing the beauty of the surrounding community in its West Main St. location, the building is also environmentally friendly and meets Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver criteria.

The building's mechanical design features a geothermal system for heating and cooling operated by a building automation system to monitor internal temperatures – making the building energy efficient and environmentally friendly. It also has large windows to take advantage of natural light and reduce lighting demand.

This is the second time the South Dakota National Guard has been presented with a Beautification Award. The Rapid City Chamber also presented the Guard the award for the month of June in 2009 for their construction and landscaping of the northwest gate area of Camp Rapid.



Veterans & Spouses Job Fair

Wednesday, August 21, 2013
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Augustana College, Elmen Center
2505 S. Grange Ave.
Sioux Falls

About 70 employers expected to attend

Employers will visit with job seekers about potential employment opportunities in areas including financial services, health care, manufacturing and government.



www.sdjobs.org

Co-hosted by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

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JOB FAIR DEEMED SUCCESSFUL

More than 40 employers participated in the 3rd Annual Yankton Career Fair April 11, at the Regional Technical Education Center. The Fair provided employers the opportunity to promote their business and to recruit employees.

The Career Fair was sponsored by the SD Department of Labor and Regulation, Technical Education Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, VFW, VFW Post 791 Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Yankton Office of Economic Development.

George Arends, field officer for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, represented the Department and was joined by County VSOs Charles Haffner (Yankton County) and Richard Beringer (Bon Homme County),



Pictured right to left are Dan Popowski (Hiro to Hire program), George Arends (SDDVA), Charles Haffner (Yankton County VSO), Richard Beringer (Bon Homme County VSO), and representatives from the local Menards and Federal Prison.



Upcoming Events

May 11—Military Order of the Purple Heart State Convention (1519 W 51st Street) - Sioux Falls
May 11—Yellow Ribbon for the 935th—Rapid City
May 15—Sioux Falls Vets Center Open House—3200 W. 49th Street—11:00 am—2:00 pm.
May 19—Yellow Ribbon for the 927th—Sioux Falls
May 21—SDDVA Spring Mini Conference—Sturgis Veterans Club (868 Main Street) - 10:00 am
May 22—SDDVA Spring Mini Conference—Pierre American Legion (520 S. Pierre Street) - 10:00 am
May 23—SDDVA Spring Mini Conference—Brookings City/County Bldg. (520 3rd Street) - 10:00 am
May 24—Hiring our Hero Veterans—American Legion—Pierre—9:00 am
Jun. 6-9—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel/Conference Center—Rapid City
Jun. 13-16—VFW State Convention—Watertown Convention Center
Jun. 19—Hiring our Hero Veterans—TREA—1981 E. Centre Street—Rapid City—10:00 am
Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Jul. 8—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre
Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre
Jul. 31— Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown
Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
Sep. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

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